

## MALOCCLUSION IN NEWZEALAND WHITE RABBIT

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### ABSTRACT

Two Newzealand White rabbits of six month of age with 2.1 kg and 2.2 kg body weight, respectively were observed suffering from malocclusion in Rabbit Research Unit at ICAR Research Complex for Eastern Region, Patna. Symptoms included decreased appetite, weight loss, incisors are uneven and cheek teeth are abnormal. The rabbits were treated by regular trimming of the incisors. In this case the condition appears to be inherited as a simple recessive character.

**KEYWORDS:** Newzealand White Rabbit, Malocclusion & Recessive Character

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### INTRODUCTION

Some rabbits are born with bad teeth; either an under bite, an overbite or other malformation (Kanfer, 2002). Malocclusion is the term for teeth that do not meet normally. Tooth problem in rabbit i.e. malocclusion is common in the short faced breeds such as dwarfs and lop and quite prone to diseases to teeth. Rabbits have six incisors, four on the top and two on the bottom. The other teeth i.e. molars are located in the back of the other side of the mouth and helps in grinding the food. All the rabbit teeth grow continuously throughout the rabbit's life and kept worn down by the action of chewing and grinding of tooth against tooth (Petty, 2014).

Malocclusion in rabbit may cause due to congenital, trauma or infection. If a rabbit come across an injury to the face it may lead to disruption of normal growth of the tooth roots and in case of infection the roots may lead to changes in the direction of the tooth growth.

Malocclusion may occur in any of the teeth. The present findings are related with incisors only and a congenital abnormality. In case of goat the incidence was reported by Chakrabarti and Prabhakaran (1996) and in cattle (Blood and Radostits, 1989). In both the cases animals encountered great difficulty and discomfort in taking food. The body weight in goat was observed much lower than the normal body weight and opined that may be due to inefficient browsing and abnormal growth. I case of cattle also same observations noticed and the calves fail to grow normally and are about half the weights of normal calves of the same age. In present findings two Newzealand White rabbits were affected and the signs of malocclusion included decreased appetite, weight loss, incisors are uneven and cheek teeth are abnormal.

## CONCLUSIONS

At six month of age body weight is only 2.1kg and 2.2 kg, respectively. In this case the rabbits were treated by regular trimming of the incisors. Petty (2014) also found that regular trimming of the incisors is a safe, non-traumatic, practical and inexpensive method of correcting the over-growth of incisors. The malocclusion of incisor teeth which is predominant form of the condition appears to be inherited as a simple recessive character (Gregory et al, 1964).

## ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

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